

AN ACT concerning churches; relating to disputes involving church congregations.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

Section 1. (a) A court shall apply a neutral principles of law analysis to any church property dispute, including, but not limited to:

(1) Any property dispute between members of a church congregation arising out of competing claims to church property; and

(2) any property dispute arising out of a church congregation's decision to change its denominational affiliation.

(b) A neutral principles of law analysis under subsection (a) may include, but not be limited to, examination of a deed, local church charter, state statute or corporate governance documents in the same manner as would be conducted for any other property dispute.

(c) As used in this section, "church" includes any church, religious sect or organization established on the basis of a community of faith and belief, and doctrines and practices of a religious character.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.